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News Release

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Attorney General Opinion: The Beginning of the End of Wayne State’s Dog Lab?

CANTON, MI—A carefully worded but decisive [opinion](#) by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel today may be the beginning of the end of over 30 years of experiments conducted by WSU on dogs which have yielded nothing in the way of progress toward the intended goal of reversing heart disease in humans, but which have resulted in much suffering to the animals, at least 136 who have died since 2009 as a result. In these terminal experiments, cables and wires are implanted in the dogs by invasive surgeries. Then the dogs are forced to run on treadmills while heart failure and/or hypertension are induced.

Attorneys for Animals, Inc., (AFA) a Canton, Michigan-based organization of animal attorneys and advocates applauds Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel whose office concluded that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is required under a 1978 law to register facilities that use animals and restricts registration to those who conduct the research in a “humane” manner.

“AFA thanks Rep. Matt Koleszar (Plymouth) for requesting the AG opinion, and Washington, DC-based Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) for its advocacy campaign to stop these experiments,” said Bee Friedlander, AFA board president. “We have worked to challenge WSU’s cruel research and teamed with PCRM in April 2020 to call official and public attention to the fact that the university was continuing its experiments in the early days of the pandemic, requiring its laboratory workers to continue the research protocol when the governor’s executive order in place at the time prohibited ‘in-person work that is not necessary to sustain or protect life’”.

AFA supports measures now pending in the Michigan Legislature to prohibit public officials from conducting experiments or training on dogs in a manner that causes pain or distress. [SB 582](#) is pending in the Senate Agriculture Committee; [HR 155](#), a resolution sponsored by Rep. Koleszar is pending in the House Regulatory Reform Committee.

The Attorney General states “DHHS is obligated to register entities that keep or use animals for experimental purposes and must restrict registration to only those entities that conduct animal research in a humane manner as reflected in ‘standards’ that DHHS must establish.”

“We call upon DHHS to promptly establish a registration process so that the public policy established by the legislature and the values of Michigan citizens who care about the humane treatment of animals can be finally realized,” concluded Friedlander.

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